

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to grant a personal interview to the Applicant's representative on November 2, 2006, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The Applicant further appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15 and 16.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 15 has been amended. No new matter is added. Claims 13-14 and 17-18 were previously canceled. Thus, claims 1-12, 15 and 16 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Summary of the Personal Interview of November 2, 2006

A personal interview was held on November 2, 2006, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office with the Examiner, the Examiner's Supervisor and the Applicant's representative in attendance. During the interview, the rejections of claims 1, 6, 11 and 15 were discussed. Claim 15 is amended herein as discussed and agreed upon during the interview, thereby overcoming the rejection thereof under 35 USC § 112.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's withdrawal of all of the rejections.

Response to Office Action of August 24, 2006

Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action mailed August 24, 2006, claims 1-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 15 has been amended responsive to the rejection as agreed upon during the November 2, 2006, interview, and the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 15 was indicated as being withdrawn during the same interview. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 and 15 under 35 USC § 112.

Rejections Under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Udagawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,880,781, hereinafter "Udagawa"), and claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Udagawa in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,559,889, hereinafter "Tanaka").

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 USC § 102 during the November 2, 2006, interview. In addition, the Applicant submits that claim 12, which depends from claim 11, is allowable over the applied art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 11, discussed during the interview.


In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12, 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this

communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number **107317-00044**.

Respectfully submitted,


Michele L. Connell
Registration No. 52,763

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 857-6104
Facsimile No. (202) 857-6395

WC/MLC